

Media Advisory

Unified Command
Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill

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Unified Command timeline of Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill Response

CAPE COD, Mass. – The Coast Guard, in cooperation with Bouchard Transportation and other federal, state and local agencies and contractors continue today to assess and clean up oil spilled from a barge being towed through Buzzard's Bay en route to Sandwich, Mass., from Philadelphia on Sunday.

On Sunday, the B. No. 120 was en-route to the Mirant Canal Power Plant, in Sandwich, Mass. via Long Island Sound, towed by the *Evening Tide* on a 1000 foot-towline. At approximately 4:30 p.m., Sunday, the *Evening Tide* crew was notified by the crew of a second tug and barge transiting behind them that they appeared to be trailing oil while transiting northbound through Buzzard's Bay.

Tug and barge personnel took steps to verify this report by checking the contents of the tanks aboard the barge and confirmed that the number 2 starboard tank was leaking. The crew initiated their Vessel Response Plan (VRP) which includes notifications to the appropriate authorities and triggers an oil spill response by federal, state and local authorities in accordance with regulations established by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA-90).

A VRP is a vessel-specific plan that outlines steps to be taken in the event that there is an oil spill. It is a Coast Guard approved contingency plan that includes provisions for periodic exercises to test the plan.

The Master of the *Evening Tide* is Milan LeDuc, a Coast Guard Licensed Mariner with more than 30 years experience holding all appropriate licenses required to operate a vessel of this nature. Captain LeDuc has been employed by Bouchard since January 2001.

The Mate on the *Evening Tide* is Franklin Hill, a Coast Guard Licensed Mariner for 21 years, holding all appropriate licenses and certifications required to serve in this capacity. Mr. Hill has been employed by Bouchard since August 2002

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